

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

In a multi-protocol label system (MPLS) carrying data, a working path carries data from a starting point or node to a destination point or node via a working path. The working path includes the switches and physical media linking starting point and the destination point. MPLS system reliability is enhanced by way of a protection path, over which data can be carried from the starting point to the destination point upon a detected failure along the working path.

Upstream messages inform one or more MPLS switching systems to make a switchover from a working path to a protection path.

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